

THE ALLIANCE HERALD

OFFICIAL ORGAN NEBRASKA STOCK GROWERS ASSOCIATION. REACHES EVERY MEMBER
OFFICIAL ORGAN NEBRASKA VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION. IT REACHES HEADQUARTERS FOR 15,000 FIREMEN

VOLUME XXII

ALLIANCE, BOX BUTTE COUNTY, NEBRASKA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1914

NO. 4

Dedication of Box Butte County's New Court House

A MAGNIFICENT NEW BUILDING

"A Monument to the Enterprise, the Progressiveness, of the People of This County"

Monday afternoon, December 28, 1914, was the time set for the dedication of Box Butte county's new court house. The day dawned with prospects of a storm, but before noon the threatening clouds had cleared away. Before 2:30 p. m., the time set for the opening of the program, several hundred people thronged the corridors and inspected the rooms of the building. The Alliance High school orchestra discoursed music from the north corridor of the second floor. Failure to provide a piano for the accompaniment handicapped the orchestra to some extent, but the omission was not noticed much except by members of the orchestra.

When the time arrived for the exercises in the district court room, it was filled to overflowing. Many failed to gain admission. Hon. Ira E. Tash presided with his usual dignity and introduced the speakers in a pleasing manner. Three of the speakers that were to have been on the program according to previous announcement were not present. They were Hon. H. M. Grimes of North Platte, judge of the 14th judicial district, who could not be present on account of holding court at North Platte that day; William Rose, supervising architect; and Hon. R. W. Hobart of Gering, judge of the 17th judicial district, who was unable to attend on account of illness. In a letter to the program committee, Judge Hobart expressed regret because of his inability to be here and added: "I hope that the court house dedicated tomorrow in Box Butte county will be a center from which will radiate equity and justice, and that by the action of those in authority who are connected with it an even higher standard of citizenship may be established. Tomorrow will be a great day for Box Butte county, and a great day for western Nebraska. The pioneer days are now over, and those who so nobly endured all those hardships are now reaping the benefits."

Some persons whose names were not on the printed program were called upon for impromptu addresses, and the time was occupied very interestingly.

Rev. H. J. Young, pastor of the Alliance Christian church, made the opening invocation.

Superintendent Walter R. Pate of the Alliance city schools was introduced and delivered a cordial and appropriate address of welcome. On behalf of the county commissioners and other county officers he welcomed the citizens of Box Butte county, and on behalf of the people of the county he welcomed those who were present from outside.

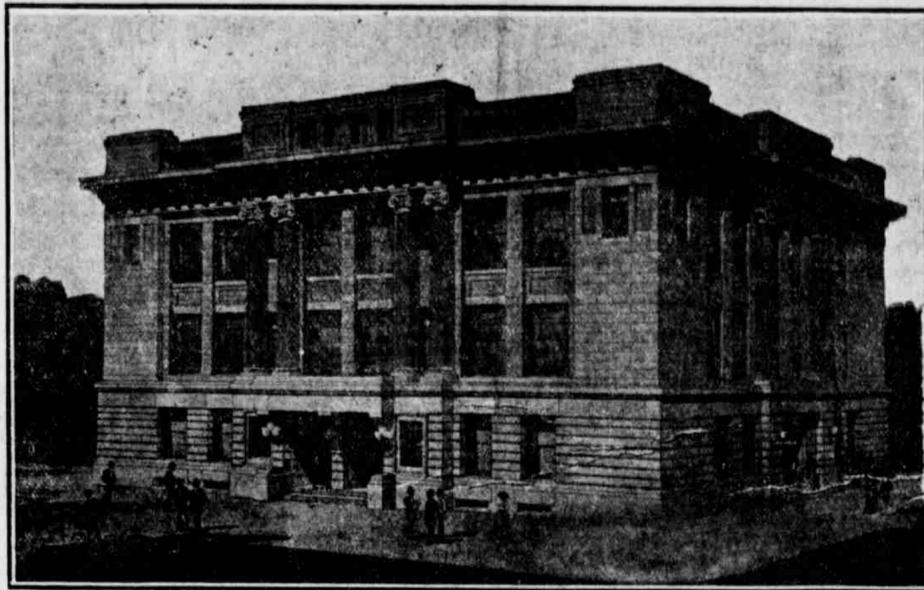
The address of Hon. W. H. Westover, judge of the 16th judicial district, which was the next, was replete with reminiscences that were interesting. It was his good fortune to have attended court, in the capacity of attorney or district judge, at all of Box Butte county's county seats and in each of the two preceding court houses. He paid the people of the county a compliment in the following sentence regarding the new court house: "This is a monument to the enterprise, the progressiveness, of the people of this county."

Ex-Lieutenant Governor O. A. Abbott of Grand Island was introduced



JOSEPH WANEK
County Commissioner

by Chairman Tash and requested to give a talk. Altho not on the program, his address was one of the most entertaining and instructive of the day. He spoke of the time and labor necessary to subdue the wilderness, whether a wilderness of trees, of hills and rocks, of sand, or of open prairie. He had watched the conquest of the wilderness in central and western Nebraska, hav-



THE PAST AND THE PRESENT

Historical Sketch of County Seats and Court Houses of Box Butte County, Nebr.

A few old timers are familiar with the history of the court houses of Box Butte county, but it has never yet been published in full. At this time it will be interesting to a large number of Herald readers, hence is given herewith with the story of the organization of the county and the locating of its county seat.

Formerly the territory now embraced in Box Butte county, Nebraska, was included in Dawes county. The question of dividing Dawes county on an east and west line, between townships 28 and 29, and erecting the territory south of that line into a new county, was voted upon by the electors of Dawes county at the general election held November, 1886, the proposition receiving a majority of the votes cast.

Pursuant to proclamation of Governor John M. Thayer, an election was held in the new county, under control of the Dawes county officials, March 7, 1887, for the purpose of locating the county seat and the election of a corps of county officers. The returns were made to Chadron and canvassed there.

There were two candidates for the county seat location, the villages of Nonpareil and Hemingford, situated six miles apart. The former, being the nearer to the center of the new county, received a majority and was declared elected.

As an inducement to the voters to locate the county seat at Nonpareil, citizens of that place made a conditional promise to donate a court house to the county. As soon as the result of the election was known, work was commenced on a frame building, 20 by 30 feet, one and a half stories high, costing \$400. Within about sixty days from the date of the election the court house was ready for occupancy by the newly elected county officials. It was not plastered yet, in fact never was until after it ceased to be used as a court house. Before the ensuing winter, it was ceiled with ship-lap.

While the court house was being constructed, the county clerk and two assistants copied the Dawes county records at Chadron for the new county.

The first court house was used by the county three years and eight months, until January 1, 1891, when the county seat was moved to Hemingford.

There was no railroad here when Box Butte county was organized and the county seat first located. A special election was held March 4, 1890, to vote on the question of re-locating the county seat. There were three candidates this time for the county seat location: Nonpareil, still an "inland" village; Hemingford, which had become a railroad town; and Alliance, which had been started since the county was organized. It took three elections to decide the matter. The Lincoln Land Co., which in those days took an active part in the locating and re-locating of county seats along the line of the B. & M. R. railroad, owned town lots in both Hemingford and Alliance. The company wanted to build up two good towns in the county. The location of the railroad shops and roundhouse in Alliance insured

Eugene Burton is closing his fourth term (eighth year) as county attorney. It is but stating a fact which the public ought to know when we say that he has made an exceptionally good record as prosecuting attorney. As lawyers well know, county attorneys in Nebraska have an opportunity to make a reputation for themselves in prosecuting criminal cases, if they wish to do so, at the expense of the taxpayers; but Mr. Burton has made his own interests subservient to those of his constituents. He is a gentleman of pleasing personality and by personal appeal to those charged with crimes has persuaded a large majority of them to plead guilty and thus save themselves and the county much expensive litigation.

The incoming county attorney, Lee Basye, is a brilliant young attorney who is justly popular with his many acquaintances. Within the last year he graduated with honors from the University of Nebraska Law School. Altho his experience as an attorney is yet quite limited, he has the education necessary to success and begins the practice of the lawyer's profession with a good business.

F. E. Hamblin, who is closing his second term as county surveyor has other work that demands all of his time, hence was not a candidate for election again. His successor, L. E. Knight, is well qualified as a surveyor and civil engineer, and without doubt will perform the work of the office efficiently and satisfactorily.

Dr. Charles E. Slagle was first elected coroner of Box Butte county at the November election, 1909. Two years later he was re-elected by an increased majority, and again last month without opposition. Altho the official services of the coroner are not often called into requisition in Box Butte county, the duties of the office some times require an able man in charge. It is needless to say that Dr. Slagle is well qualified to fill the position.

Elsewhere in this paper is a statement regarding the good work of the present board of county commissioners, hence not much need be said here. C. L. Hashman, member from the Second commissioner district, is chairman of the board. He was first

election he was re-elected for his third term.

Miss Della M. Reed is closing her second term as county superintendent of public instruction. She has made a splendid record and has done much to promote the interests of the public schools. All of her school work has been done in Box Butte county, of which she has been a resident for many years. At the election of 1911, she was accorded a re-election without opposition. Altho urged to be a candidate for a second re-election, she wished a rest from the work of the office and declined. After the close of her present term of office next week, she will go to Idaho for an extended visit at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ira Reed, who were formerly residents of Box Butte county and well known here.

Miss Reed has an able and worthy successor in the office of county superintendent in the person of Miss Opal Russell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Russell of Lake precinct. Miss Russell's home has been in Box Butte county since she was a little girl. She is a graduate of the Alliance High school, and has had a number of years' experience in teaching in this and adjoining counties. The Herald bespeaks for Miss Russell the support and co-operation of teachers, school district officers and patrons, which she deserves and which was so cordially given to her predecessor.

While the court house was being constructed, the county clerk and two assistants copied the Dawes county records at Chadron for the new county.

The first election to vote on re-location was held March 3, 1890. It required a two-fifths vote for Nonpareil to hold the county seat, and three-fifths for either of the other places to secure it. Neither of the places received the necessary vote.

CAMPAIGN FOR CLUB BUILDING

Alliance Commercial Club Will Make Four Day Campaign to Raise Funds for New Building

Starting January 11 and running until the 14th, the Alliance Commercial Club will make an active campaign for subscriptions for the purpose of raising funds to erect the club "community" building, in accordance with the action taken at the smoker at the city hall recently.

It is believed that the necessary subscriptions can be taken during this time and that there will be no trouble in raising enough funds to construct the building. Several large subscriptions have already been made and the outlook for a successful campaign is bright.

The sum of \$450 in labor has al-



S. C. RECK
County Commissioner

ready been donated by Alliance laboring men who are anxious to see the town advance.

ATTEND CRAWFORD SMOKER
Members of Alliance Fire Department Made Trip to Crawford Wednesday Evening

Members of the Alliance fire department attended a smoker given at Crawford Wednesday evening, as guests of the Crawford fire department. Crawford is in the race for the state firemen's convention in 1916 and invited guests from other points in the western end of the state to attend this meeting, which was for the purpose of showing that Crawford is amply able to handle the convention in 1916.

Among those who attended from Alliance were Rolfsen, Hull and Thomas, who spoke during the evening. Local Crawford men who took part were Mayor McLain, Messrs. Gordon, Heyward, Minnick, Lightoff, and Rev. Rundin and Father Gleason. Mr. Darcy of Omaha, architect of Crawford's new city hall, was also a speaker.

Miss Marian Seawell is in Alliance visiting with friends during the holidays.

SERVANTS OF THE PEOPLE

A Few Facts Concerning the County Officials Who Will Occupy New Court House

The court house belongs to "The People"—it is public property and as such is for the use of the citizens as a whole. The tenants of the building are the public servants, otherwise known as county officers. They serve the people by transacting public business, keeping public records, administering justice, superintending our system of public education, and otherwise promoting the general weal.

Box Butte county is fortunate in having officials of integrity and ability. It is a pleasure to mention each of the county officers, including



CALVIN HASHMAN
Chairman Board of County Commissioners

those who assume the duties of office on January 7, altho necessary to make the mention brief. Photographs of most of them are also printed in this issue of The Herald.

Monte S. Hargraves is closing his first term as county clerk. He was elected three years ago for a two year term, but the change in Nebraska elections from annual to biennial dispensed with the election that would otherwise have been held in November, 1913, and lengthened the two-year terms of county officers to three years. At the election held November of this year Mr. Hargraves was re-elected without opposition.

Edgar M. Martin is closing his first term of three years as county treasurer. He is an old resident of Alliance and Box Butte county and is well and favorably known as a citizen. His work in the office of county treasurer has given general satisfaction, and altho opposed at the last election by a popular candidate, he was re-elected by a good majority.

Sheriff Cal M. Cox is popular as a citizen and officer. Others who would like to occupy the office of sheriff are getting discouraged about trying to get it as long as the present incumbent wishes to hold it. At the last

(Concluded on page 5)

(Continued on page 5)



GEORGE W. DUNCAN
Commissioner-elect

a prosperous future for this city; by locating the county seat at Hemingford it was expected to make a thriving city of it.

The first election to vote on re-location was held March 3, 1890. It required a two-fifths vote for Nonpareil to hold the county seat, and three-fifths for either of the other places to secure it. Neither of the places received the necessary vote.